

**Governance Group**

**Thursday, 16th January 2025**

**1.00pm – 3.00pm**

**TEAMS Meeting**

**MEETING NOTE**

**1. Welcome and Apologies**

Monica Patterson welcomed attendees to the meeting. Apologies were noted from: David Girrity, Angela Lamont, Michael Jeffrey, Fiona Wilson

**2. Minute of Last Meeting**

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved without amendment.

**3. SESTRAN Presentation: Regional Transport Strategy Delivery Plan**

Rebecca Smith (SEStran) gave a presentation on the Regional Transport Strategy Delivery Plan. Key points included:

* SESTRAN is the Regional Transport Partnership for southeast Scotland and covers eight local authorities. Its updated Regional Transport Strategy (RTS), approved in March 2023, will run until 2035.
* The RTS is supported by thematic strategies on buses, freight, rail, and active travel.
* A Delivery Plan has been developed to prioritise and assess proposed transport projects, including several in East Lothian.
* East Lothian projects include work around Queen Margaret University, active travel infrastructure, and signage improvements. Projects are scored on deliverability and strategic alignment.
* SEStran has also taken on administration of the Active Travel Behaviour Change Fund, previously managed by Paths for All.
* A Community Fund for 2025–26 will support local organisations promoting sustainable travel.

Partners were encouraged to engage through regular forums and stakeholder groups.

**Action: Rebecca Smith to circulate details of the Community Fund and share active travel dashboard links.**

**4. Residents Survey Methodology**

Stewart Cooper summarised the methodology and findings of the 2024 East Lothian Residents Survey:

* The survey was distributed to 10,000 households and achieved 1,700 responses (1.6%).
* Topics included neighbourhood satisfaction, health and wellbeing, safety, climate change, and financial wellbeing.
* 93% rated their neighbourhood positively; 60% reported being financially impacted by cost of living increases.
* 74% felt safe walking alone at night; 77% understood how to take action on climate change.

Concerns were raised about the low response rate and whether the survey was representative. Maureen Allan questioned the value of the survey, describing it as a poor return on investment.

Lesley Brown and Caroline Rodgers suggested aligning future resident engagement with the review of the Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP) and Strategic Needs Assessment (SNA).

**Actions:**

* **All partners to review the findings and consider how the data may support local priorities.**
* **Toby Renouf and Caroline Rodgers to explore alternative engagement approaches and gather examples of good practice from other areas.**

**5. Update on LOIP**

Emma Brown gave an update on the review and refresh of the LOIP:

* Four impact assessments (including a Children’s Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment) were held in late 2024 to guide the review process.
* Key themes raised included disconnection from the partnership, limited capacity in third-sector organisations, and the need for a trauma-informed and inclusive approach.
* A regular bulletin will be issued to improve transparency and partner communications.
* A workshop is planned for 17 February to build capacity around community engagement.

**Actions:**

* **Emma Brown to circulate the first bulletin and further engagement opportunities.**
* **Follow-up meetings to be held with statutory partners.**

**6. Update on CLD Plan and Progress Visit Plan**

Simon Davie gave a verbal update on progress:

* Meetings are being arranged with partners unable to attend the initial CLD Partnership meeting.
* Education Scotland is offering professional dialogue sessions, self-evaluation support, and guidance on performance data.
* Work is underway to improve data collection and establish a baseline to evidence future progress.
* Positive progress has been made on youth engagement, safeguarding, and food-related support.

**Action: Simon Davie to finalise partnership meeting dates and distribute a member survey.**

**7. Strategic Needs Assessment Working Group Update**

Toby Renouf updated members on the Strategic Needs Assessment:

* A working group has been convened and met in late 2024.
* Key themes include significant growth in the older population, income inequality, and housing and health pressures.
* The group is exploring live dashboards and better use of local data.

**Action: Toby Renouf to provide a further update at the next meeting.**

**8. Community Wealth Building Update**

Toby Renouf provided a short update on CWB activity:

* Anchor institutions including East Lothian Council and NHS Lothian are progressing key strands of the CWB agenda.
* Subgroups are in place and reporting on inclusive employment, procurement, and resilience.

**Action: CWB subgroups to report progress at the April 2025 meeting.**

**9. Updates by Exception**

* Police Scotland: Benjamin Leathes noted alignment between resident safety perceptions and Police Scotland survey data. Emphasised the value of sharing survey outputs between partners.

**10. Any Other Business**

* Monica Patterson raised the need for stronger evaluation mechanisms for infrastructure and behaviour change projects.
* Monica announced her retirement and expressed thanks to all partners for their collaboration over the years. Attendees expressed their appreciation for her leadership and service.

**Date of Next Meeting:**

Tuesday 1st April 2025